

**National Recreation and Preservation/Statutory or Contractual Aid for Other Activities**

**JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE**

Activity: Statutory or Contractual Aid for Other Activities  
Subactivity: Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission

Program Component	1999 Estimate	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2000 Budget Request	Change From 1999 (+/-)
Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission	324	0	0	324	0
<b>Total Requirements \$(000)</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>0</b>

**AUTHORIZATION**

Public Law 99-647, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission Act of 1986, as amended, and Public Law 104-333, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act, 1996.

**OVERVIEW**

The NPS provides technical assistance and funding support to the **Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission** in developing and implementing the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plans of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in Massachusetts and Rhode Island was established on November 10, 1986.

**APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MISSION GOALS**

- Ia Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.
- Ib The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.
- IIa Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.
- IIb Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the preservation of parks and their resources for this and future generations.
- IIIa Natural and cultural resources are conserved through formal partnership programs.
- IIIb Through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.

***Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission  
FY 1999 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments***

**Enacted: \$324,000**

Section 3 of Public Law 99-647 established a Federal Commission to oversee the corridor and directed the NPS to assist in the development and implementation of a Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan for the Blackstone River Valley. Enactment of the Omnibus Parks and Lands Management Act of 1996, Public Law 104-333,

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reauthorized the commission for an additional ten years and Public Law 105-355 (Title V – Other Matters) authorized development funds through fiscal year 2000.

Funds appropriated in FY 1999 will enable the commission to provide technical assistance to communities and partners in implementing the “core commitments” identified in the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan and its amendment. Assistance will include projects related to: heritage infrastructure and programming; strategic design and planning; developing the Blackstone Valley Institute; preservation and enhancement programs; and river recovery and recreational development. In addition to this funding, \$750,000 was also provided within the NPS Construction appropriation in FY 1999 for exhibit development.

Federal support of the commission is proposed to remain unchanged in FY 2000.